

DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

3 CAPITOL HILL
CONFERENCE ROOM 104
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Thursday, May 19, 2016

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Finocchiaro, LICSW
Connie Gallo, LCSW
Ronda Jones, MSW
Barry Noel, LCSW
Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Kimberly Perry, LICSW

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager
Alana Rodriguez, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM on a motion by Ronda Jones and seconded by Barry Noel. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the February 25, 2016 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Barry Noel and seconded by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith to accept the Open Session minutes of February 26, 2016. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

- Arlene Hartwell announced that effective today, Alana Rodriguez would be the board manager for this board. Brief introductions were made.

4. Old Business

- The board reviewed a letter drafted by Arlene Hartwell to RI College inviting SW degree students to attend board meetings. The board made the following recommendations:
 - Include the link to the RI Secretary of State website for meeting dates
 - Send to Providence College, Salve Regina University, and CCRI
 - Arlene Hartwell will amend and mail the letters.
- The Final Action page for complaints was shared with board members.
- The number of social worker licenses and number of complaints for 2015 was reviewed. Based on those numbers, the percentage of complaints against social worker licenses is 0.73%

5. New Business

- The board discussed designating a Hearing Officer to hear evidence on behalf of the board as this board is both hearing and advisory.

- i. Ronda Jones made a motion that the board not delegate authority to a hearing officer in the event of a hearing. The motion was seconded by Lynn Finocchiaro and passed by unanimous vote.

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Ronda Jones and seconded by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith to adjourn to Closed Session at 9:28 AM. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith and seconded by Barry Noel at 9:55 AM to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

8. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board reviewed and approved proposed action on one case.

9. Adjournment

The next Board of Social Work Examiners meeting will be held Thursday, September 22, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Barry Noel and seconded by Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Hartwell
Board Manager
Center for Professional Boards and Commissions